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\$1.75 US

\$2.15 CAN

51

JUNE

UK £1.20



AUTHORITY

X-FORCE™

**NEW LOOK!
NEW LOGO!
NEW SPECIES!!**



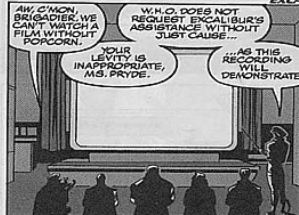
30th
ANNIVERSARY
1962 - 1992



THE AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE BANNED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...

EXCALIBUR!



AW, C'MON, BRIGADIER, WE CAN'T WATCH A FILM WITHOUT POPCORN.

YOUR LEVITY IS INAPPROPRIATE, M.S. PRYDE.

W.H.O. DOES NOT REQUEST EXCALIBUR'S ASSISTANCE WITHOUT JUST CAUSE...

...AS THIS RECORDING WILL DEMONSTRATE.

I SAY WE JUMP THE UGLY BLIGHTERS NEXT TIME THEY BRING GRUB. THEN WEIRD FACES IS JUST PANTHIME MASKS.

THE LOONIES, GET THEIR SILLY BLOOMIN' IDEAS OFF THE FLIPPIN' TELLY, GO THEY DO.



OF COURSE, THIS IS ALL A FRANK, BRITISH HUMOR, M.M.

THROW AN INNOCENT FAMILY OF AMERICAN TOURISTS IN JAIL AND WATCH THEM SWEAT.

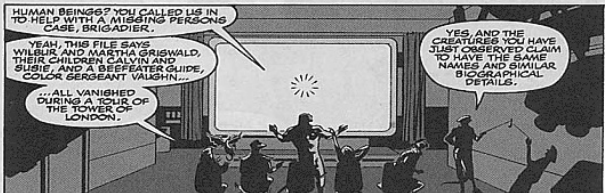
MAYBE THE CAMERA IS BEHIND THAT MURDER, WILBUR.



CAMERA? WE'RE ON T.V. -- CANDID CAMERA-- ACT COOL, EVERYONE. HEY, WE CAN TAKE A JOKE.



LET US GO, ALREADY! WE'VE BEEN IN HERE TWO DAYS. WE GOT OUR RIGHTS, WE'RE HUMAN BEINGS.



HUMAN BEINGS? YOU CALLED US IN TO HELP WITH A MISSING PERSONS CASE, BRIGADIER.

YEAH, THIS FILE SAYS WILBUR, AND MARTHA GRISWOLD, THEIR CHILDREN CALVIN AND SUSIE, AND A BEEFEATER GUIDE, COLOR SERGEANT VAUGHN...

...ALL VANISHED DURING A TOUR OF THE TOWER OF LONDON.

YES, AND THE CREATURES YOU HAVE JUST OBSERVED CLAIM TO HAVE THE SAME NAMES AND SIMILAR BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS.

EXCALIBUR™ Vol. 1, No. 51, June, 1992. (ISSN 1045-1360) Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly. Copyright © 1992 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.75 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.15 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. \$21.00; foreign \$33.00; and Canadian subscribers must add \$8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. EXCALIBUR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO EXCALIBUR, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in Canada.

OUR INTERROGATORS
BELIEVE THE DETAINEES
ARE FROM AN ALTERNATE
REALITY...

...THAT--UNBELIEVABLE
AS IT SOUNDS--IS DOMI-
NATED BY MAMMALS.

DON'T DRINK THE WATER

SHADOWCOMPSOGNATHUS.

MAMMALS,
YUK! ALL COLD
AND SLIMY.

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CO-CREATORS

INTRODUCING THE
ALL NEW, SAME OLD
EXCALIBUR
(OF EARTH 99476)

BRITANICUS REX.

ACTUALLY,
KATHERINE, MOST ARE
WARM-BLOODED.

I ENCOUNTERED
MANY OF THE SPE-
CIES DURING MY
CORPS TRAINING
ON OTHERWORLD.

MEGON.

BRIGADIER ALYSDON STUART
AND HER TWIN BROTHER,
ALYSAUR.

NIGHTSTRUTTER.

IF I CAN SEE YOUR
CAPTIVES NOW, BRIGADIER,
I MAY BE ABLE TO DEDUCE
THEIR POINT OF ORIGIN
AND THE LOCATION OF
OUR PEOPLE.

WE
CAN'T DO THAT,
REX.

THE HUMANS WERE KIDNAPED LAST NIGHT, BY AGENTS OF THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.

THE INSANE GENIUS WHO CREATED THE SAVAGE LAND?

YES, WE BELIEVE HE PLANS TO USE THE HUMAN GENES TO FURTHER HIS ATTEMPT TO CREATE A SUPERIOR SPECIES.

BUT HE WILL NEVER SUCCEED. HIS UNGODLY EXPERIMENTS ARE BLIGHTS ON OUR ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CULTURE.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE DOCTOR KARL LYLOS. HE IS OUR EXPERT ON THE SAVAGE LAND.

I DO NOT RELISH MY EXPERTISE. IT WAS WON THROUGH BITTER, TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE.

I WAS WITH MY FATHER WHILE HE SURVEYED THE MOUNTAIN RANGE THAT ENCIRCLES THE SAVAGE LAND...

STEADY ON, OLD BEAN.

...WHEN I WAS ATTACKED BY THE SAVAGE SPAN OF THE EVOLUTIONARY WILD BARBARIANS... VILE... EVIL...

...I BARELY ESCAPED WITH MY LIFE.

WE THINK THINGS HAVE DEGENERATED SINCE THEN.

THE FANTASTIC FIVE WENT TO THE SAVAGE LAND SIX WEEKS AGO AND THEY HAVEN'T BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE.

DON'T WORRY, ALYSAUR, EXCALIBUR IS ON THE CASE NOW.

WE WILL RECAPTURE THE HUMANS AND RESCUE OUR PEOPLE...

"...WHEREVER
THEY MAY BE."

EARTH 616...

ONCE, BRIGHTON WAS A
FLOURISHING SEA-
SIDE RESORT ON THE
SOUTH COAST OF
ENGLAND.

BUT, WITH THE ADVENT
OF CHEAP SPANISH
VACATIONS, THE FICKLE
HOLIDAY HORDES LEFT
FOR WARMER CLIMES.

NOW IT IS A SEDATE HAVEN FOR THOSE
WHO RELISH PEACEFUL PROMENADES
AND UNSPOILED VICTORIAN SPLENDOR...

FRANK SKINNER
CONTRACTOR

...OR THE ILLUSION
OF ESCAPING GRIM
REALITY.

OOOHH!
I FEEL
REALLY ILL,
MARTHA.

WE'RE ALL SICK,
WILBUR. THE FOOD
MUST HAVE BEEN BAD.
THE WATER TOO--THIS
WHOLE SMELLY WORLD
IS POLLUTED.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT
-SHRIP! I DIDN'T
CAUSE THE SPACE
WARD WE FELL
THROUGH.*

NO, BUT YOU
INSISTED ON
A EUROPEAN
VACATION. WE
ALL WANTED TO
GO TO CALIFORNIA,
TO WALLY WORLD.

* WIDGET DID
IN EXCALIBUR
#9. --TERRY

THERE
AREN'T ANY
SPACE WARPS
IN WALLY
WORLD.

PLEASE,
MARTHA.
GAGAN!

MY MOTHER
WAS RIGHT. SHE
SAID YOU WERE A
PREHISTORIC
THROWBACK. A
FAT, LAZY...

...REALLY FAT, WILBUR, I
DO BELIEVE YOU ARE SWELL-
ING UP--BURSTING OUT OF
YOUR SHIRT...WILBUR?

WILBUR?

GGHHHARRR?

GGHHRR!

WILBUR

WILBUR GRISWOLD
IS ONLY DIMLY AWARE
OF A ROAR BORN OF
VOCAL CORDS NO
LONGER CAPABLE OF
SPEECH.

IT IS A ROAR THAT HAS
NOT BEEN HEARD ON THIS
EARTH FOR SIXTY-FIVE
MILLION YEARS.

EARTH
99476...

EXCALIBUR'S SWORD SHIP
SLOWS TO CRUISING SPEED
AS IT APPROACHES THE
ETERNITY MOUNTAIN RANGE
THAT SURROUNDS THE
SAVAGE LAND.

THAT'S NOT
CLOUD. IT'S SMOG...
ATMOSPHERIC
POLLUTION.

NEVER
HAVE I SEEN
SO MENACING A
CLOUD BANK.

WE HAVE
ENTERED THE
"SMOG" ZERO
ON VISUAL.

RADAR SHOWS
A GEOLOGICAL
BASIN DEAD
AHEAD.

MEIN GOTT--
A CITY, HUGE,
HELLISH...

...OVER A
HUNDRED SQUARE
MILES OF CRUDE
UGLY BUILDINGS,
ALL SPEWING
TOXIC GASES.

INCOMING!

MISSILES--
THEY'RE LOCKED
ON.

NO TIME
FOR EVASIVE
ACTION.

ABANDON
SHIP!







ANCIENT ROARS ECHO ACROSS THE BRIGHTON SEASIDE AS LONG EXTINGUISHED CREATURES ROAM IN AIMLESS CONFUSION.

TERRIFIED TOURISTS RUN FOR THEIR LIVES -- EVEN THOUGH THE DINOSAURS SEEM TO CONSCIOUSLY AVOID CAUSING INJURY OR DAMAGE--

--STILL, IT'S ALWAYS PRUDENT TO KEEP WELL AWAY FROM A SEVEN-TON CARNIVOROUS LIZARD WITH VERY BIG TEETH.



NEARBY, THE POLICE TRY TO CONTAIN A SWELLING CROWD OF EAGER NEWS-PAPER AND TELEVISION REPORTERS BEHIND A FLIMSY BARRIER.

OH, YOU CAN'T PARK THERE.



ARE YOU DEAF? WE GOT A CRISIS HERE.

I KNOW, SONNY!

I'M COMMANDER DAI THOMAS--INTER-REGIONAL TASK FORCE.

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE A CIGARETTE--NAW, YOU NEW BOYS ARE ALL SO HEALTH CONSCIOUS.



WHO THE-- THOMAS? WHAT THE DEVIL GIVES YOU THE AUTHORITY TO--

THIS GOVERNMENT MANDATE DOES.

I GET ALL THE WEIRD JOBS AND THERE'S BEEN PLenty OF THEM.

AS LONG AS THE BEASTS ARE PASSIVE, LET'S NOT AGGRAVATE THEM.

I SENT OUT A REQUEST FOR EXCALIBUR'S ASSISTANCE EN ROUTE.

WHAT'S THE STORY HERE?



WHY HAVEN'T THE SHARPSHOOTERS OPENED UP? I DEPLOYED THEM TEN MINUTES AGO.

I CANCELED YOUR ORDER. A BULLET MAY NOT STOP THE BEASTIES, MIGHT JUST MAKE THEM MAD.

WE THINK THE CREATURES ARE CONNECTED TO THESE ALIENS.

GATECRASHER'S TECHNET! I DOUBT IT. THE TECHNET HAD BEEN LOGGING WITH EXCALIBUR, THEY'VE GONE BACK TO THEIR OWN WORLD NOW.



I DUNNO ABOUT THAT. THE TOWN COUNCIL LET THE ALIENS MOVE INTO THE OLD PIER IN RETURN FOR CONTROLLING THE WEATHER. MAKE IT WARMER LIKE.

"THEY HOPED TO ATTRACT MORE TOURISTS--NOW WE GOT DINOSAURS. I KNEW IT WAS ASKING FOR TROUBLE MAKING DEALS..."



"...WITH CRAZY ALIENS."

Look, Mother. Huge reptiles. Snee snee. The humans run in terror, snee snee.

Reptiles look like DEENOIDs from ZETA ZIINGUORUSS--or OOGINGS from NOVASODIGIK.

Maybe you can employ them. Servants would make our exile more comfortable.



I SACRIFICED MY LIFE SO YEW COULD DEFEAT EXCALIBUR.

I BEAT THE WHOLE TEAM SINGLE-HANDEDLY...

...BUT YEW BWEW IT.



GATECRASHER DOES NOT HEAR YAP'S MINDLESS BANTER...

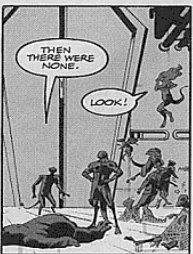
...ANOTHER, MORE STRIDENT VOICE FILLS HER MIND.

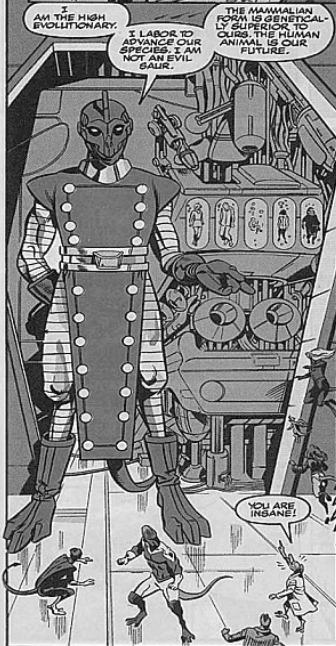


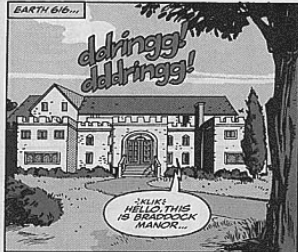
EARTH
99476...







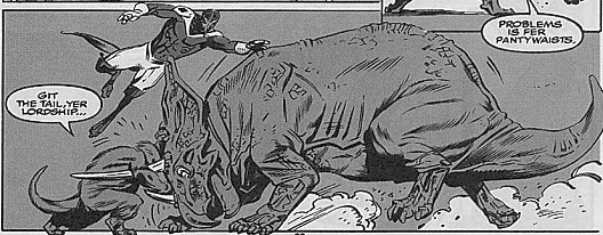














NOT TO WORRY, MY
ONLY FRIEND, I HAVE
GAINED SUFFICIENT
LEVERAGE TO STEER
THIS BRUTE.



I'VE GOT
THIS ONE UNDER
CONTROL, TOO...



--WITH A
WEBBED
BRIDLE AND
REINS.

WHOOA BOY!
WE'RE ALL EAGER
TO GET HOME.

IT MUST'VE
BEEN TOUGH LIVING
AMONGST THESE
REPULSIVE
MAMMALS.



ARACHNOSAUR! YOU MUST
BE TOLERANT OF OTHER
SPECIES--EVEN IF THEY
ARE SUICIDAL.

SUICIDAL?

I FEEL
A LECTURE
COMING
ON.



THIS WORLD IS
BEING POISONED BY
YOUR OWN BLIND
SCIENCE.

MY WORLD'S
CIVILIZATION IS
IN HARMONY WITH
NATURE.



EVERYTHING WE
HAVE CREATED
WILL MELT BACK
INTO THE GOOD
EARTH SHOULD
OUR SPECIES
BECOME
EXTINCT...

...NOTHING WOULD
REMAIN TO MARK OUR
PASSING SAVE A FEW
FOSSILIZED
BONES.

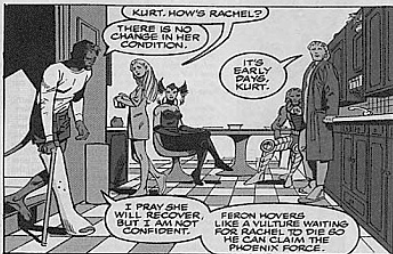


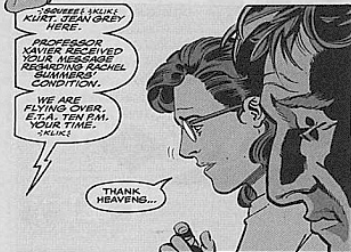
"GREEN"
DINOSAURS?

WHAT DO
YOU THINK,
THOMAS?

I THINK
AFTER A FEW
STIFF DRINKS,
THIS WILL ALL
SEEM LIKE A
BAD DREAM.







SWORD STROKES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAVANAGH
EDITOR
MARK POWERS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I thoroughly enjoyed issue #47. I really like the two new members, Kylun and Cerise. At least I hope Cerise is a new member. I especially like her hair and her armor.

What EXCALIBUR has been needing is new blood, and hopefully it won't ooze out of anyone who is on the team.

Jason Lintz

(Address withheld upon request)

As you know by now, Jason, both Cerise and Kylun are new team members — and the response has been overwhelmingly positive!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I just finished reading EXCALIBUR #47 and I loved it and I have a few questions.

1. Is Cerise going to be a new character in EXCALIBUR?

2. Are we going to see Widget try to make a new body for himself?

3. Are we going to see what happened to Joyboy?

4. Are we going to see the Technet again?

I would be very happy if you would answer these questions. I also have a problem and I was wondering if you could help me. Sometimes I don't have a chance to get to the store and buy the comic, so I was wondering if there was some way I could get the back issues that I missed.

So until Widget becomes scrap metal, Make Mine Marvel!

Gregg Spillane
109 Park Shore Dr. E.
Columbia, SC 29223

Let's see: 1. Yes. 2. Why? Don't you like the one he's using now? 3. Wait until issue #53. 4. Someday.

Sorry, Gregg, but we can't help you with back issues. Your best bet is to check with your local comic shops. If they don't have the issues in stock, perhaps they will back order them for you. You can also try the large, mail-order comic companies, many of which advertise in these pages!

Dear EXCALIBUR,

This is my first time writing to EXCALIBUR, but after issue #47 I just had to write. Ever since Alan Davis returned, EXCALIBUR has been great! I mean, we were able to find out Meggan's true form, and many other things. If EXCALIBUR is really going to have a new member, I hope it's Cerise. Maybe you could even have Kylun and Cerise both join EXCALIBUR.

I've been collecting since issue #32. I got started because of Shadowcat. She is my favorite comic book person.

Until Infinity, Make Mine Marvel!

Jeremy Wilson
1028 Zuni Drive
Farmington, NM 87401

We bet you'll be interested in the fan club information at the end of this page, Jeremy!

Dear Terry,

With EXCALIBUR #47, Alan Davis joins the ranks of those perverse Brits who have produced the most literate and intense comics of the past decade. The influence of his former collaborators is evident: he's learned from Chris Claremont's intricate storytelling, Alan Moore's revisionist characterization, and the American Roy Thomas's meticulous continuity to compose a marvelous script. Revealing EXCALIBUR's susceptibility to the manipulations of Otherworlders, well and ill-intentioned, adds a striking touch of Montresian paranoia. I'm sure that when Davis turns to the Saturnyne/Jamie/Nigel subplot he'll give us a big helping of Delanovian horror.

Speaking of which, I'm glad to see Captain Britain resume the dignified character he had in the hands of Moore and Delano. Impulsive acts and mood swings are in character for Brian, but buffoonery is not.

I love the theme of rotating interdimensional guest-stars (Technet, Cerise), but please don't bring in the Squadron Supreme. Also, don't overuse those hairy gurus from "Bloodlust."

Well-structured as the plot to issue #47 was, revealing moments of inactivity continued to abound. My favorite this issue depicted Kylun's unease about having no superpowers. It's refreshing to see among all the "tragically oppressed" mutants a guy who's been given no compensation for looking strange.

Congrats to Alan and Mark for making EXCALIBUR not just a standout among mutant titles, but among all comics.

Josh Lukin
3119 Guilford Ave. 2nd fl.
Baltimore, MD 21218

Thank you for a thoughtful letter, Josh!

Dear Alan, Mark, Terry, and Tom,

I just loved issue #47! It was the best I have ever read. Kylun's power is er...um...interesting, and I really loved Widget's new body. It's totally freaky! I was reading the letters page and saw that there is a Shadowcat fan club and a Nightcrawler fan club. I started thinking, "why not a Phoenix fan club?" Well, now there is such a club, and if you want to join, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Phoenix Force
c/o Jason Bourgeois
PO Box 94
Mt. Holly, VT 05758
Please do not respond until September, 1992.

So until Cerise needs a new bulb, Make Mine Marvel!

Jason "Bouge" Bourgeois
(Address above)

We're sure there will be lots of EXCALIBUR fans who will be happy to hear of your fan club, Jason. Here's another:

Dear Sword Strokes,

Hi ya, guys, how's it going? This letter is

being sent out for a few reasons. The first is that Nightcrawler should end up with Megan. Captain Britain just isn't right for her, although he may be for Courtney Ross or, better yet, Linda McQuillan a.k.a. Captain Britain 839 (seen mostly in EXCALIBUR #45).

Secondly, what's Kitty's deal? She is more beautiful than Meggan, yet no one fights over her!

Finally, I too am starting a fan club! However my club is not for Kitty, Nightcrawler, or even Phoenix... It's for the whole EXCALIBUR crew. All of them from Cap UK to Widget to Shadowcat. Anyone for joining? Send a SASE to the address below.

X-Calibur
c/o Cypher Aileen
PO Box 9434
Truckee, CA 96160

Well, there you have it — a club for the whole team! But wait! there's more...

Dear Alan, Terry, and Mark,

Alan Davis's stories are just terrific. I can't understand where he's been all these years. I've been following his artwork from Captain Britain to EXCALIBUR, but this is the first time he's been credited with writing. Is he somehow related to John Byrne?

I noticed you printed two fan club letters, so will you please print mine? I'm starting a club for all Marvel Comics. Anyone who wants to join can write to me at the following address, but please include a SASE!

Chris J. Scull
7 Rupert Ct.
Thomastown, Victoria
Australia 3074

Well, Chris, we wish you the best of luck (although this club sounds suspiciously like WAMI, Marvel's own fan club).

And, in the interest of fairness, we reprint the addresses of the other clubs:

For Shadowcat fans:
Soulmates!
Robert J. Spassov
7097 Dolphin St.
Bolivar, OH 44612-9614
For Nightcrawler fans:
Bamf
Rachel Blaine
Rt. 1 Box 106
Gallopia Ferry, WV 25515

Okay, folks? That's the last word on fan clubs you'll find here in *Sword Strokes* — after all, you do want to read letters about EXCALIBUR, right? A hearty thank you to all our dedicated fans. We wish you all the best of luck!

